

Merits of a National Radio Fraternity in a Non-Technical College

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In the Physics Department of the Southern Illinois State Normal University, is being constructed a 1000 watt C.W. transmitter and a 500 watt phone set. The R.F. final stage will consist of two 852 tubes in push-pull and will be plate modulated, class B, by two 203A tubes in push-pull. At the present time a 100 watt C.W. transmitter is in operation and is licensed under the call, W9UIH.

As a consequence, this school is receiving wide publicity of high quality, appealing particularly to those who appreciate technical or applied work.

In connection with the radio equipment, has been organized the Epsilon Chapter of Synton, a National, Professional, Radio Fraternity. The benefits to the student members of this fraternity and of actual experience manipulating the set are many, some of which are unique. No other college organization, within the knowledge of the writer, answers so many needs of the members.

The student, to a considerable extent, masters the field of radio, which is a practical application of physics. He learns better the fundamentals of the theory courses. He develops manipulative technique and resourcefulness, which lead toward skillful laboratory and research work. He is made to assume responsibility of valuable equipment and to operate it in strict compliance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission. This last type of training is not gained elsewhere in the non-technical college.

Amateur radio provides an excellent hobby—one in which a person may communicate easily with many other persons who have the same avocation. Frequently this hobby becomes a vocation and thus adds skilled workmen to the large industrial field of radio.

A member of the fraternity has professional advantages which aid in securing and in holding positions. Other qualifications being equal, he will be given preference over one who has no special interest in his major or minor subjects.

There are, of course, the usual social attractions of the college group. There is the gold key or emblem, patterned after the 204 tube. Little imagination is needed to find many other reasons—even though considerable time and expense are involved—why the installation of such an organization as Synton should be considered, particularly in the non-technical college.